

Response ID [REDACTED]

Submitted to Utility Regulator (Support for Decarbonisation Preparation) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-01 13:57:32

Introduction

1 What is your name?

name:

2 What is your email address?

email address:

3 Are you providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business?

Yes

If yes, please provide the name of the organisation or business below:

NIE Networks

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

yes:

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Utility Regulator (Support for Decarbonisation Preparation) Bill

Clause 1 (1)

6 Does this part of Clause 1 give the Utility Regulator sufficient power and/or responsibility in order to help decarbonise the energy sector in Northern Ireland?

No

If no, what powers / responsibilities should the Bill confer on the Utility Regulator in order to support decarbonisation, beyond the provision of advice?:

NIE Networks welcomes these proposals which support delivery of the goals of the Energy Strategy and the Climate Change Act. We appreciate that this is interim legislation and would hope to see inclusion of support being granted for other departments (namely the Department for Infrastructure) in future proposals.

In the immediate term, we would highlight that this bill fails to mention the core remit of the UR to protect the interests of consumers. The amendments below would allow this to be incorporated and clearly defined. It would also be beneficial to be more specific in the definition of the energy sector mentioning transmission and distribution as distinct parts of the value chain.

Our proposed changes are between the three pairs of asterisks below.

1.—(1) The Utility Regulator may provide advice, information or assistance to the Department for the purposes of or in connection with *protecting the interests of consumers,* the development of any proposal, policy, strategy or plan relating to the energy sector that the Department is required, or considers it appropriate, to develop under the 2022 Act.

(2) The Utility Regulator must, so far as reasonably practicable, comply with any reasonable request by the Department that it exercise its powers under subsection (1) in relation to any particular matter.

(3) In this section—

“protecting the interests of consumers” means protecting the short- and long-term interests of consumers in terms of costs, sustainability, and security of supply,

“the 2022 Act” means the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022,

“the Department” means the Department for the Economy,

“the energy sector” means anything to do with the production, *transmission, distribution,* supply or consumption of energy (of any kind),

“the Utility Regulator” means the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation.

Clause 1 (2)

7 Should the Utility Regulator’s support for decarbonisation be restricted to the provision of advice to the Department for the Economy?

Yes

If no, who else should the Utility Regulator be able to provide decarbonisation advice to?:

We appreciate that this is interim legislation and would hope to see inclusion of support being granted for other departments (namely the Department for Infrastructure) in future proposals.

Clause 1 (3)

8 Do you support this aspect of Clause 1?

No

If no, please explain in the text box below.:

As mentioned above this is an opportunity to include reference to the UR’s central role in protecting the interests of consumers.

Clause 2

9 Should the relevant provisions be commenced immediately after Royal Assent?

Yes

If no, what conditions or restrictions might be placed on commencement?:

Additional Information/Comments

10 Please provide information on any other potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

11 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Almost done...

12 If you provide an email address you will be sent a receipt and a link to a PDF copy of your response.

email:

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